

REMARKS

Reconsideration and the timely allowance of the pending claims, in view of the following remarks, are respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated January 4, 2005, the Examiner rejected claims 1-3 and 7-9, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e), as being anticipated by Fidric '302 (U.S. Patent No. 6,434,302); and rejected claims 4, 10, and 13-16, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), as being unpatentable over Fidric '302 in view of Reynolds '336 (U.S. Patent No. 3,825,336).

The Examiner objected to the Specification as containing a minor informality and claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, and 18 as containing terms lacking antecedent bases. The Examiner also indicated that claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, and 18 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

By this Amendment, Applicant has amended the Specification to correct the minor informality. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the immediate withdrawal of the objection to the Specification.

In an effort to expedite the examination of this application, Applicant has cancelled claims 1, 7, and 13 and has rewritten claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, and 18 in independent form, as suggested by the Examiner. Applicant has also changed the dependencies of claims 2-4, 8-10, and 14-16 as well as introduced new dependent claims 20-27 to protect additional aspects of the present invention. Applicant submits that no new matter has been introduced. Thus, by virtue of this Amendment, claims 2-4, 8-12, and 14-27 are presented for examination of which claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, and 18 are independent.

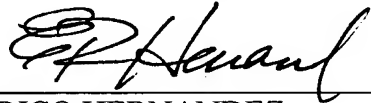
Applicant submits that the cancellation of claims 1, 7, and 13 and the changes to claims 5, 6, 11, 12, 17, and 18 render the prior art rejections moot. Accordingly, Applicant requests the immediate withdrawal of the prior art rejections, under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) and §103(a).

All matters having been addressed and in view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests the entry of this Amendment, the Examiner's reconsideration of this application, and the immediate allowance of all pending claims.

Applicant's Counsel remains ready to assist the Examiner in any way to facilitate and expedite the prosecution of this matter. Please charge any fees associated with the submission of this paper to Deposit Account Number 033975. The Commissioner for Patents is also authorized to credit any over payments to the above-referenced Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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